

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 148

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 1996

Received

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States is committed to military stability in the Taiwan Strait and the United States should assist in defending the Republic of China (also known as Taiwan) in the event of invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the United States began its long, peaceful, and friendly relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan in 1949;

Whereas since the enactment in 1979 of the Taiwan Relations Act, the policy of the United States has been based on the expectation that the future relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be deter-

mined by peaceful means and by mutual agreement between the parties;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's intense efforts to intimidate Taiwan have reached a level that threatens to undermine stability throughout the region;

Whereas, since the beginning of 1996, the leaders of the People's Republic of China have frequently threatened to use military force against Taiwan;

Whereas for the past year the People's Republic of China has conducted military maneuvers designed to intimidate Taiwan both during its democratic legislative elections in 1995 and during the period preceding democratic presidential elections in March 1996;

Whereas these military maneuvers and tests have included the firing of 6 nuclear-capable missiles approximately 100 miles north of Taiwan in July 1995;

Whereas the firing of missiles near Taiwan and the interruption of international shipping and aviation lanes threaten both Taiwan and the political, military, and commercial interests of the United States and its allies;

Whereas in the face of such action, Taiwan is entitled to defend itself from military aggression, including through the development of an anti-ballistic missile defense system;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a longstanding and uninterrupted friendship, which has only increased in light of the remarkable economic development and political liberalization in Taiwan in recent years;

Whereas Taiwan has achieved tremendous economic success in becoming the 19th largest economy in the world;

Whereas Taiwan has reached a historic turning point in the development of Chinese democracy, as on March 23, 1996, it will conduct the first competitive, free, fair, direct, and popular election of a head of state in over 4,000 years of recorded Chinese history;

Whereas for the past century the United States has promoted democracy and economic freedom around the world, and the evolution of Taiwan is an outstanding example of the success of that policy;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act directs the President to inform the Congress promptly of any threat to Taiwan's security and provides that the President and the Congress shall determine, in accordance with constitutional processes, appropriate United States action in response; and

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 rests on the premise that the United States will assist Taiwan should it face any effort to determine its future by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3            (1) the People's Republic of China should im-  
4            mediately live up to its commitment to the United  
5            States to work for a peaceful resolution of any dis-  
6            agreements with Taiwan, and accordingly desist  
7            from military actions designed to intimidate Taiwan;

8            (2) the People's Republic of China should en-  
9            gage in negotiations to discuss any outstanding

1 points of disagreement with Taiwan without any  
2 threat of military or economic coercion against Tai-  
3 wan;

4 (3) Taiwan has stated and should adhere to its  
5 commitment to negotiate its future relations with  
6 the People's Republic of China by mutual decision,  
7 not unilateral action;

8 (4) the United States should maintain its ca-  
9 pacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of  
10 coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the  
11 social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan,  
12 consistent with its undertakings in the Taiwan Rela-  
13 tions Act;

14 (5) the United States should maintain a naval  
15 presence sufficient to keep open the sea lanes in and  
16 near the Taiwan Strait;

17 (6) in the face of the several overt military  
18 threats by the People's Republic of China against  
19 Taiwan, and consistent with the commitment of the  
20 United States under the Taiwan Relations Act, the  
21 United States should supply Taiwan with defensive  
22 weapons systems, including naval vessels, aircraft,  
23 and air defense, all of which are crucial to the secu-  
24 rity of Taiwan; and

1           (7) the United States, in accordance with the  
2       Taiwan Relations Act and the constitutional process  
3       of the United States, and consistent with its friend-  
4       ship with and commitment to the democratic govern-  
5       ment and people of Taiwan, should assist in defend-  
6       ing them against invasion, missile attack, or block-  
7       ade by the People's Republic of China.

Passed the House of Representatives March 19,  
1996.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk.*